

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Actions dated July 13 and August 5, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-18 and 30-47 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Drawings

The Examiner has not yet indicated acceptance of the drawings filed November 3, 2003. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate acceptance of the drawings by marking the appropriate box in the next Office Action.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-15, 34 and 44 have been allowed.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 27-29, 37-43, 45 and 47 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed below, independent claims 16, 17 and 18 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 27, 28, and 29 respectively. Consequently, claims 16, 17 and 18 and their dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

III. Rejection of claims 16, 18, 35-36 and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 16, 18, 35-36 and 46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,301,383). Claim 16 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 27. Claim 27 has consequently been canceled. Claim 18 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 29. Claim 29 has consequently been canceled. Therefore, claims 16 and 18 and their dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

IV. Rejection of claims 17, 31 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17, 31 and 33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoshino (U.S. Patent No. 5,317,426). Claim 17 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 28. Claim 28 has consequently been canceled. Therefore, claim 17 and its dependent claims should be deemed allowable.

V. Rejection of claims 30 and 32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 30 and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito in view of Hoshino. Claims 30 and 32 should be deemed allowable by virtue of their dependency to claims 16 and 18 for the reasons set forth above.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

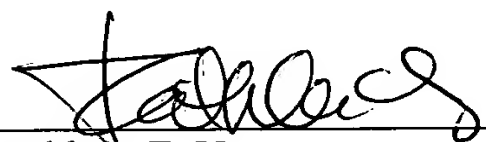
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Appln. No.: 09/617,920

Attorney Docket No.: Q58735

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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